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# THE ROUND TABLE

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## THE AMERICAN SPIRIT

A course for secondary schools suggested as a means for teaching (1) an understanding of American institutions and (2) an appreciation of American ideals. The course is divided into four parts.

### A. GENERAL PLAN

#### I. What America Stands For

*Suggested reading.*—The occasional literature of our wars and our patriotic songs.

*Purpose.*—To present the political ideals of our American democracy: first, in its conception in the days of the Revolutionary War; secondly, in its development through the struggles of the War of 1812, the Mexican War, and the Civil War; thirdly, in its extension in the Spanish-American War and the present world-war.

#### II. The Spirit of the Pioneers

*Suggested reading.*—Literature emphasizing courage, enterprise, and the dignity of labor.

*Purpose.*—To instil the principles of the equality of man and the dignity of labor as the basis of democracy.

#### III. America the Land of Opportunity

*Suggested reading.*—Stories of immigrants and self-made Americans.

*Purpose.*—To present the social and industrial opportunities of the individual, and the basis on which these rest.

#### IV. "Where There Is No Vision, the People Perish"

*Suggested reading.*—Idealistic poetry of our American men of letters. (See Alphonso Smith, *What Can Literature Do for Me?*)

*Purpose.*—To emphasize individual responsibility for the high destiny of democracy.

### B. DETAILED LISTS

#### I. WHAT AMERICA STANDS FOR

##### *Revolutionary War*

##### Class Study:

The Declaration of Independence

Henry: Speech in the Virginia Convention

Washington: Farewell Address

Everett: Address on the Character of Washington

Emerson: "Hymn on the Fight at Concord"

Dwight: "Columbia"

Hopkinson: "Hail Columbia"

Suggested Reading:

Mitchell: *Hugh Wynne*

Cooper: *The Spy, The Pilot*

Thompson: *Alice of Old Vincennes*

Churchill: *Richard Carvel*

Atherton: *The Conqueror*

Hale: *The Man without A Country, Philip Nolan's Friends*

Brady: *Paul Jones*

*War of 1812*

Class Study:

Key: "The Star Spangled Banner"

Drake: "The American Flag"

Suggested Reading:

Bachelor: *Drum and I*

Eggleston: *Roxy*

*Mexican War*

Class Study:

Summer: "The True Grandeur of Nations"

O'Hara: "The Bivouac of the Dead"

Smith: "America"

*Civil War*

Class Study:

Garrison: *Liberty for All*

Lincoln-Douglas Debate (selections)

Lincoln: *Address in Independence Hall*

*Gettysburg Speech*

*Second Inaugural*

Lowell: "A Stanza for Freedom"

"Commemoration Ode" (stanza VI to end)

Emerson: "Boston Hymn"

Longfellow: "The Slave's Dream"

"The Slave in the Dismal Swamp"

"The Slave Singing at Midnight"

Whitman: "Eighteen Sixty-One"

"Hushed Be the Camps Today"

"When Lilacs Last in the Dooryard Bloomed"

"O Captain! My Captain"

Suggested Reading:

Lives of Lincoln by Nicolai, Schurz, Logan, etc.

Stowe: *Uncle Tom's Cabin*

Dana: *Two Years before the Mast*

*Spanish-American War*

Class Study:

Joint Resolution for Intervention in Cuba, in U.S. Statutes at Large, XXX, 738

Suggested Reading:

Dunne: *Mr. Dooley in Peace and War*

*Mr. Dooley in the Hearts of His Countrymen*

*World-War*

Class Study:

Wilson: Address to Senate. January 22,

Address to Congress. April 2,

Address on Flag Day. June 14, 1917

Reply to the Pope

Address to the New Soldiers of Freedom

Lindsay: "Lincoln Walks at Midnight in Springfield, Illinois."

Holmes: "International Ode—Our Father's Land"

Finley: "Every Man's Land"

II. THE SPIRIT OF THE PIONEERS

Class Study:

Joaquin Miller: "Westward Ho!"

Whitman: "Pioneers! O Pioneers!"

"I hear America Singing"

Holmes: "A Song"

Longfellow: "The Village Blacksmith"

"The Building of the Ship"

Stedman: "The Hand of Lincoln"

Whittier: "The Poor Voter on Election Day"

Mackaye: "Goethals, the Prophet Engineer"

Suggested Reading:

Eggleston: *Circuit Rider*

Harte: *The Luck of Roaring Camp*

Ford: *The Honorable Peter Stirling*

Tarkington: *The Gentleman from Indiana*

White: *A Certain Rich Man*

Fox: *The Little Shepherd of Kingdom Come*

Howells: *The Rise of Silas Lapham*

Norris: *The Pit*

White: *The Westerners*

Thanet: *Heart of Toil*

Wister: *The Virginian*

Smith: *Caleb West*

## III. AMERICA—THE LAND OF OPPORTUNITY

## Suggested Reading:

- Jacob Riis: *The Making of an American*  
 Mary Antin: *The Promised Land*  
 Steiner: *From Alien to Citizen*  
           *The Immigrant Tide*  
           *On the Trail of the Immigrant*  
 Muir: *The Story of My Boyhood and Youth*  
 Muller: *Carla Wenckebach*  
 Booker T. Washington: *Up from Slavery*  
 Keller: *The Story of My Life*  
 Lane: *Henry Ford's Own Story*  
 Kenyon: *Life of Thomas Edison*

## IV. "WHERE THERE IS NO VISION, THE PEOPLE PERISH"

## Class Study:

- Poe: "Eldorado"  
 Whittier: "The Vanishers"  
 Longfellow: "Excelsior"  
 Holmes: "The Chambered Nautilus"  
 Lowell: "The Vision of Sir Launfal"  
 L'Envoi: "To the Muse"  
 Joaquin Miller: "Columbus"  
 Lanier: "A Song of the Future Barnacles"  
           "The Song of the Chattahoochee"  
 Emerson: "Voluntaries"

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 REDISCOVERING BURKE

Just after the United States declared war against Germany, and after I had carefully preserved my copy of our President's great speech, it became again my turn to teach Burke's time-worn oration on "Conciliation with America." On previous trips through that familiar ground it had been my habit to join the grumblers who declare that the material is utterly inappropriate for the present use in high schools; that its subject-matter and its logic are beyond their grasp; that we spend too much time teaching the things of a hundred years ago; that to Americanize the children of recent immigrants we must use a literature which will give them America—even though it be her scattered provincialisms of New England or Louisiana or the Middle West.

But that day when we opened our books to read of Englishmen who fix their idea of liberty forever on one principle, the right of self-